

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 through 8 (canceled)

1           9. (New) An intimately premixed synthetic binding agent  
2 for producing powder paints, which consists essentially of:  
3           a synthetic resin; and  
4           a pyrogenic oxide of silicon, aluminum, titanium, or  
5 mixtures thereof, said pyrogenic oxide having a particle size  
6 between 5 and 65 nm.

1           10. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding agent  
2 defined in claim 9, wherein the pyrogenic oxide is pyrogenic  
3 silicic acid.

1           11. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding  
2 agent defined in claim 9, wherein the pyrogenic oxide is surface  
3 treated with an organosilicon compound to chemically convert  
4 hydroxy groups on the surface of the pyrogenic oxide to hydrophobic  
5 groups.

1           12. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding agent  
2 defined in claim 9 wherein the primary particle size of the  
3 pyrogenic oxide is between 7 and 40 nm.

1           13. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding  
2 agent defined in claim 9 wherein the pyrogenic oxide is contained  
3 therein in an amount of 0.05 to 10% with respect to the weight of  
4 the synthetic resin.

1           14. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding  
2 agent defined in claim 9 wherein the pyrogenic oxide is contained  
3 therein in an amount of 0.25 to 2.5% with respect to the weight of  
4 the synthetic resin.

1           15. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding  
2 agent defined in claim 9, wherein the synthetic resin is a  
3 polyester resin or a poly(meth)acrylate resin.

1           16. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding  
2 agent defined in claim 9, wherein the synthetic resin is a  
3 polyester resin.

1           17. (New) An intimately premixed synthetic binding  
2 agent for producing powder paints, which consists essentially of:  
3 a synthetic polyester resin; and  
4 a pyrogenic silicic acid having a particle size between 7  
5 and 10 nm, wherein the pyrogenic silicic acid is contained therein  
6 in an amount of 1% with respect to the amount of the synthetic  
7 resin.

1           18. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding  
2 agent defined in claim 17 wherein the synthetic polyester resin  
3 consists essentially of 2,2-dimethylpropanediol-2,3, ethylene  
4 glycol, and terephthalic acid.

1           19. (New) The intimately premixed synthetic binding  
2 agent defined in claim 17 wherein the pyrogenic silicic acid is  
3 surface treated with an organoisilicon compound to chemically  
4 convert hydroxy groups on the surface of the pyrogenic oxide to  
5 hydrophobic groups.

1           20. (New) A powder paint which comprises the  
2 intimately premixed synthetic binding agent for producing powder  
3 paints defined in claim 9 and a hardener for powder paints .

1           21. (New) A powder paint which consists essentially of  
2 (a) the intimately premixed synthetic binding agent for  
3 producing powder paints defined in claim 9;  
4 (b) a hardener for powder paints; and  
5 (c) a pigment.

1           22. (New) The powder paint defined in claim 21 which  
2 includes a filler.

1           23. (New) A powder paint which comprises the intimately  
2 premixed synthetic binding agent for producing powder paints  
3 defined in claim 17 and a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide hardener for powder  
4 paints.

1           24. (New) A powder paint which consists essentially of  
2 (a) the intimately premixed synthetic binding agent for  
3 producing powder paints defined in claim 17;  
4 (b) a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide hardener for powder paints; and  
5 (c) a pigment.

1           25. (New) The powder paint defined in claim 24 which  
2 includes a filler.

1           26. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder  
2 paint according to claim 20.

1           27. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder  
2 paint according to claim 21.

1           28. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder  
2 paint according to claim 22.

1                   29. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder  
2    paint according to claim 23.

1                   30. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder  
2    paint according to claim 24.

1                   31. (New) A coat or a coating comprised of a powder  
2    paint according to claim 25.